



CITY OF SAN DIEGO VOUCHER SHEET

Species: *Zygonemertes virescens*

Authority: (Verrill, 1878)

Common Synonyms:

Nemertea

?*Paranemertes californica*

Melanemertes californica (Verrill, 1878)

Taxon: Nemertea:Hoploneurtea:Amphiporidae

Date: 20 December 1994

By: Dean Pasko

Voucher Specimen(s):

Station
E-9

Date
7/24/94

Storage Location
Main

Voucher#
X105

Characters:

Mouth and proboscis pore united, subterminal.

Cephalic furrow absent. Caudal cirrus absent.

Body: juveniles - milky white to pale yellow; adults - green.

Proboscis armed. Central stylet with slender, pointed stylet and large cylindrical basis about 1-1/2 times the length of stylet.

Ocelli numerous, red, and extend behind brain.

Full Description: Coe, 1940

Live: 5-40 mm length; 0.5-2.0 mm width.

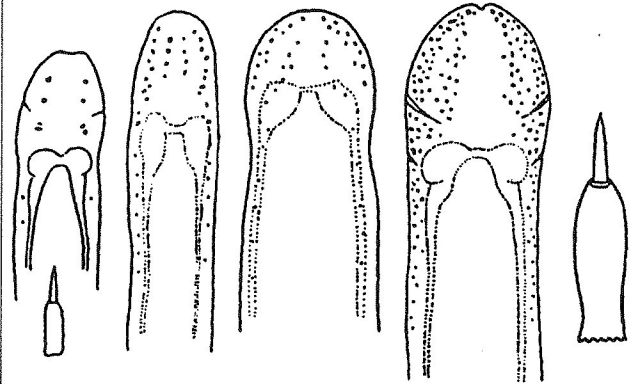
Body slender but somewhat inflated. Head often wider than body, with 2 pair of oblique lateral grooves. Anterior pair located halfway between brain and tip of head; posterior pair adjacent to brain.

Color: juveniles are milky white. Adults are yellowish, pink, orange, pale brown, reddish brown, greenish brown, dark olive green or brick red. Color is environmentally related. Preserved specimens often turn green.

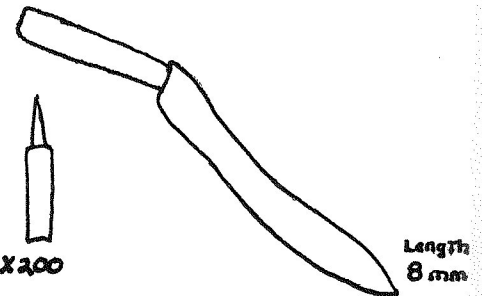
Ocelli present. Up to 100 or more in adults, forming two or three rows anterior to the brain, and a single row posteriorly. Ocelli are black or brown, sometimes red or violet.

Proboscis sheath extends the length of the body. Stylet is slender and pointed. The basis is large, cylindrical, 4 times as long as wide and 1-1/2 to 2 times the length of stylet. Basis truncate posteriorly. Two accessory stylet pouches present, usually with 3 stylets per pouch.

Illustration: Coe, 1940



Figures a through e show variation in, shape of head, number of ocelli and size, and shape of stylets with age of individual: (a) juvenile, (d & e) adult.



Diagrammatic illustration of specimen from E-9.

Related Species:

Juveniles may be similar in general appearance to *Paranemertes californica*, especially if the specimen is white and the proboscis extended. *Zygonemertes virescens* will have a somewhat inflated head relative to the rest of the body, whereas *Paranemertes californica* will not. *Paranemertes californica* will also only have one (rarely two) pairs of black eyes, not red.

Comments:

With small specimens, the eyes may be seen through the body wall by flattening the specimens against the bottom of your dish with a cover slip.

The single specimen from E-9 was small (approx. 5 mm), white, with 4 pairs of red ocelli anterior to the brain and a single pair posterior to the brain.

References:

Coe, 1940.